



THE FORBES
LOCAL STRATEGIC
PLANNING STATEMENT
2040

2020

Situated in the heart of the Lachlan Valley, Forbes is regarded as one of the richest primary producing areas in the state.

2040





Let's create
a future for
Forbes we can
call "amazing."

A MESSAGE FROM THE

Mayor

As you know I am very proud to be a part of this amazing Shire of Forbes and I am sure the next twenty years will be a wonderful time of opportunity for Forbes Shire.

In the future, I see a dynamic and productive shire and a place that enables its community to thrive. I am pleased to present the Forbes Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), which will provide a clear long term vision to guide the Shire as it evolves in the years to come.

We are a growing population and a number of large developments nearing completion are due to speed up this growth even further. Our planning decisions need to best accommodate this growth yet celebrate our unique character and identity. While many aspects of the Shire are changing, I am mindful of the things about Forbes we want to remain –

our rich history, our beautiful waterways and our commitment to agriculture and business.

Forbes has so much to offer; lifestyle, diverse housing, activities for the family and a strong sense of spirit. Our residents love it here and the priorities set out in this document aim to celebrate and grow what makes us great.

I encourage you all who live, work and do business in Forbes to read the LSPS to find out how we can grow our community and accommodate everyone's needs and priorities. Let's create a future for Forbes we can call "amazing."

Phyllis Miller OAM, Mayor of Forbes



About the Plan



The Forbes Local Strategic Planning Statement sets out a 20-year land use vision and planning priorities for the future of our area to:

- Manage future growth, new technology, and changing community needs;
- Conserve our heritage, local character, and environment;
- Support our diverse economy and all our industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, retail, education and health;
- Link the community's strategic vision to that of the region and the state to achieve the best economic and social outcome for Forbes.

The LSPS does not set land use zonings or other planning controls. The LSPS outlines what we want our planning controls to achieve – now and into the future. Having a clear vision will help us all work together to ensure we achieve the future we want. It sets the objectives of development in Forbes to ensure we maintain our quality of life, heritage and local character, stunning main-street and our rich natural environment.

Legislative and policy context

This LSPS has been prepared in accordance with clause 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the EP&A Act) which requires that it includes or identifies the following:

- The basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters;
- The planning priorities for the area that are consistent with any strategic plan applying to the area, including the Community Strategic Plan;
- The actions required for achieving those planning priorities;
- The basis on which the Council is to monitor and report on the implementation of those actions

The LSPS brings together and builds on planning work found in council's other plans, studies and strategies such as the Forbes Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP), Forbes Development Control Plan 2013 (DCP), Growth Management Strategy 2009, Agricultural Strategy 2018- 2030, 2018 Draft Forbes Flood Study and the Community Strategic Plan. The LSPS will be used to inform these and future strategies align with the future strategic direction set out in this plan.



A MESSAGE FROM THE

General Manager

The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is a critical document for our Shire, ensuring a clear vision of the future for Forbes and our neighbouring communities.

Council has worked hard to ensure the LSPS focuses on what truly matters most to our community including protecting our environment, better transport options and jobs close to home. The plan outlines a collaborative and coordinated way in which the shire can work with all levels of government to deliver key projects that will really drive our shire forward.

We have seen recent developments such as those undertaken at the Central West Livestock Exchange and the Homemakers Centre really transform our town. The Lake Forbes Activation Plan and its implementation will also drive economic and recreational opportunities.

This plan of course does not stand alone. The feedback we have received from community engagement through the Community Strategic Plan, Community reference panel, CBD Masterplan development and the Agriculture Strategy has informed us of the critical aspects our community wants to incorporate into future plans. As with all planning documents, we recognise the LSPS must be flexible and as Council we must ensure our plan can adapt to change.

Council will confidently lead the way, meeting the outcomes of this strategic roadmap for the future. We will work collaboratively with the community to ensure that land use decisions made within the remit of the LSPS are a good fit for the community, business and our lifestyle.

Steve Loane, General Manager

Our place in the Central West

Forbes Local Government Area (LGA) is located in Central West of NSW in Wiradjuri country on the banks of the Lachlan River. Forbes Shire covers 4,720 square kilometres, from Tichborne in the north, Ootha to the west, Pinnacle to the south and Eugowra to the east. The Forbes LGA consists of the main township of Forbes and a number of smaller localities namely Bedgerabong, Garema, Wirrinya, Corinella, Warroo and Ootha and neighbours the LGAs of Parkes, Lachlan, Bland, Weddin, Cowra and Cabonne. Forbes and Parkes have a unique relationship with shared facilities and many residents travelling between the towns for employment, health, education and recreational opportunities. This is a positive relationship that can be built on to ensure the continued growth of both towns.

Forbes is positioned on the Lachlan River, which is the centre of the shires diverse lifestyle and the foundation for our primary industry sector supported by the Central West Livestock Exchange. The primary industry sector is an important part of the Shire's economy, with Forbes contributing \$97m of Gross Regional Product from this sector and accounting for 18% of employment in the Shire. Forbes is well placed as a central location to major regional employers such as Moxey's Dairy Farm, Red Bend Catholic College, Parkes Transport for NSW Regional Office, the Catholic Education office and various mines including North Parkes, Evolution and the future Sunrise Mine.

Forbes has a lively town centre that takes pride in supporting local businesses. The historic town centre and public art exhibited throughout the Shire draws visitors from across the region and beyond,

and encapsulates our unique character with buildings and independent stores and boutiques. In 2018 the retail sector in Forbes recorded annual growth rates of 7.9% in total output despite drought and other impacts on the economy.

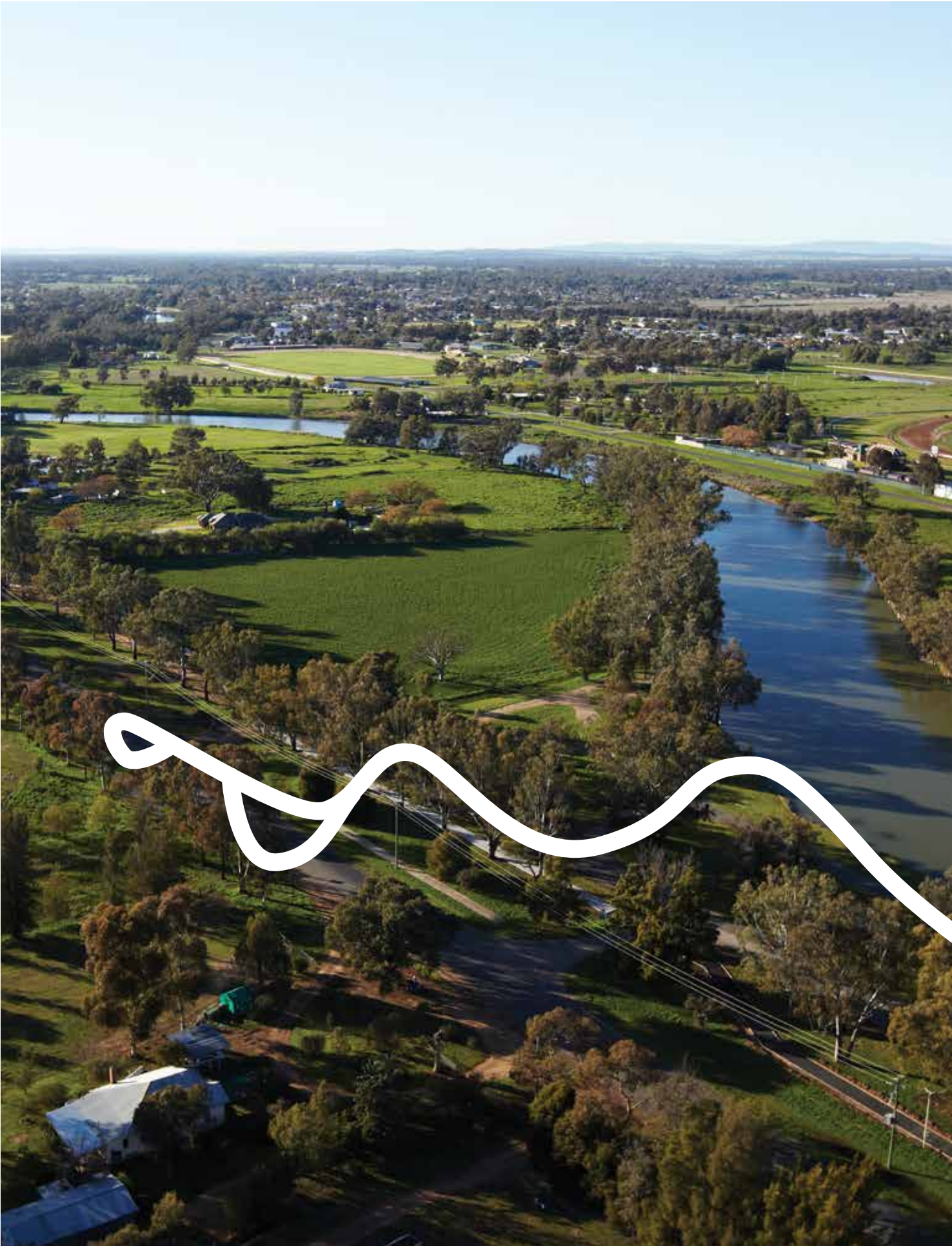
Forbes is supported by health services such as Forbes District Hospital, dental services alternative therapy and optometry and hosts a number of private, public and boarding schools drawing students from across the region. It has a full range of sports for all ages and seasons, from swimming and equestrian to netball and croquet and all football sports, and regularly hosts both National and World Hang Gliding Championship events. These are supported by a number of facilities including an outdoor and indoor heated pool, heritage tennis courts and a range of football and netball courts as well as the Lake Forbes Walking Trail. All of these facilities underpin a healthy lifestyle.

With a lively calendar, Forbes is quickly becoming to be known as the event destination of the Central West. Forbes various art and music events such as the Vanfest, Elvis Festival satellite events, Kalari Lachlan River Arts Festival, Grazing Down the Lachlan, Frost and Fire and the Forbes Eisteddfod as well as a number of community events such as the Forbes Farmers Market, Australia Day Festival and the Heritage Festival. Forbes is a safe place to live with a strong sense of community with over 90 social clubs and associations including five service clubs and an active business chamber.

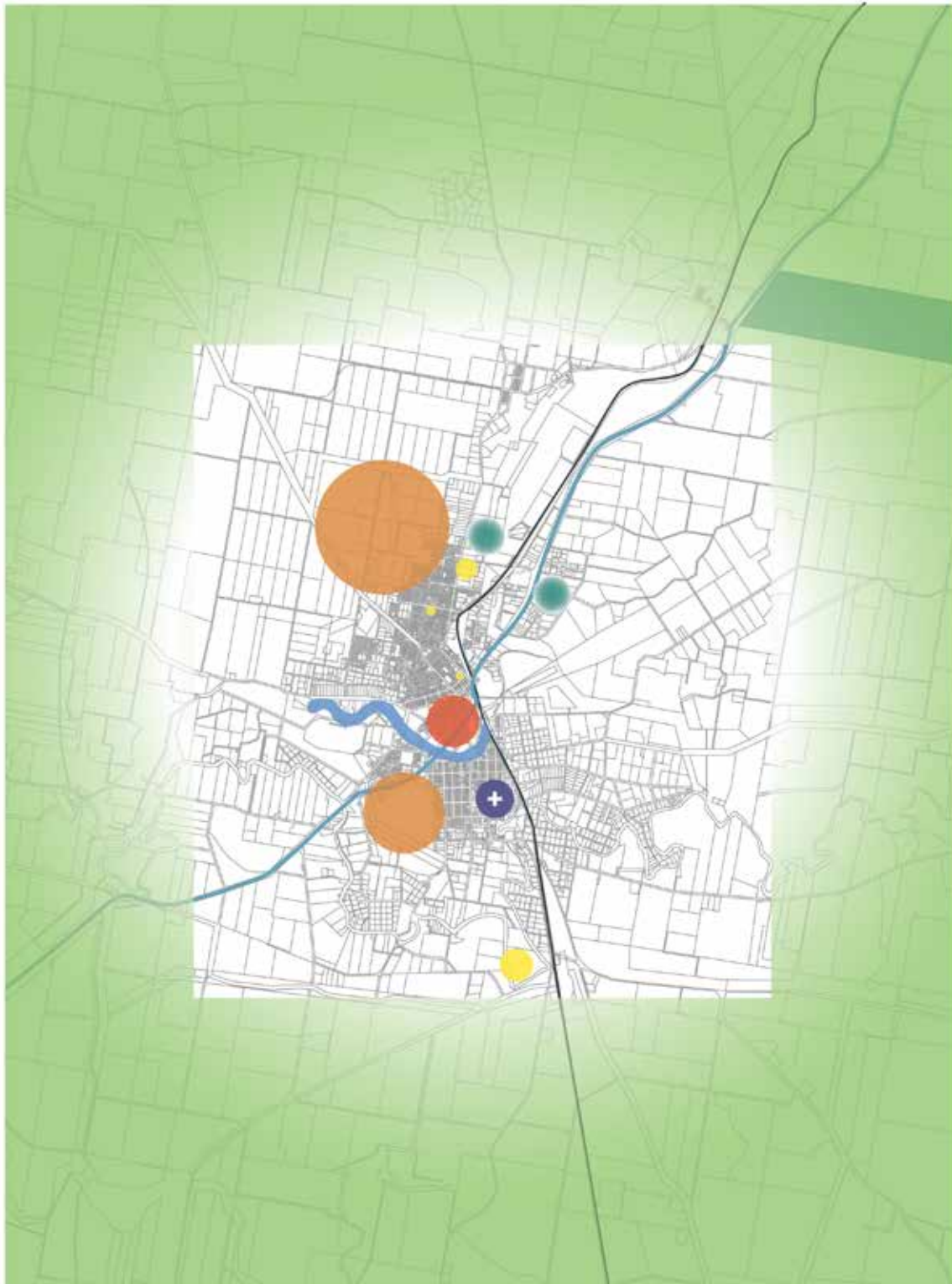
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Map 01: Map of Shire and neighbouring Councils in Central West NSW





Map 02: Forbes Township

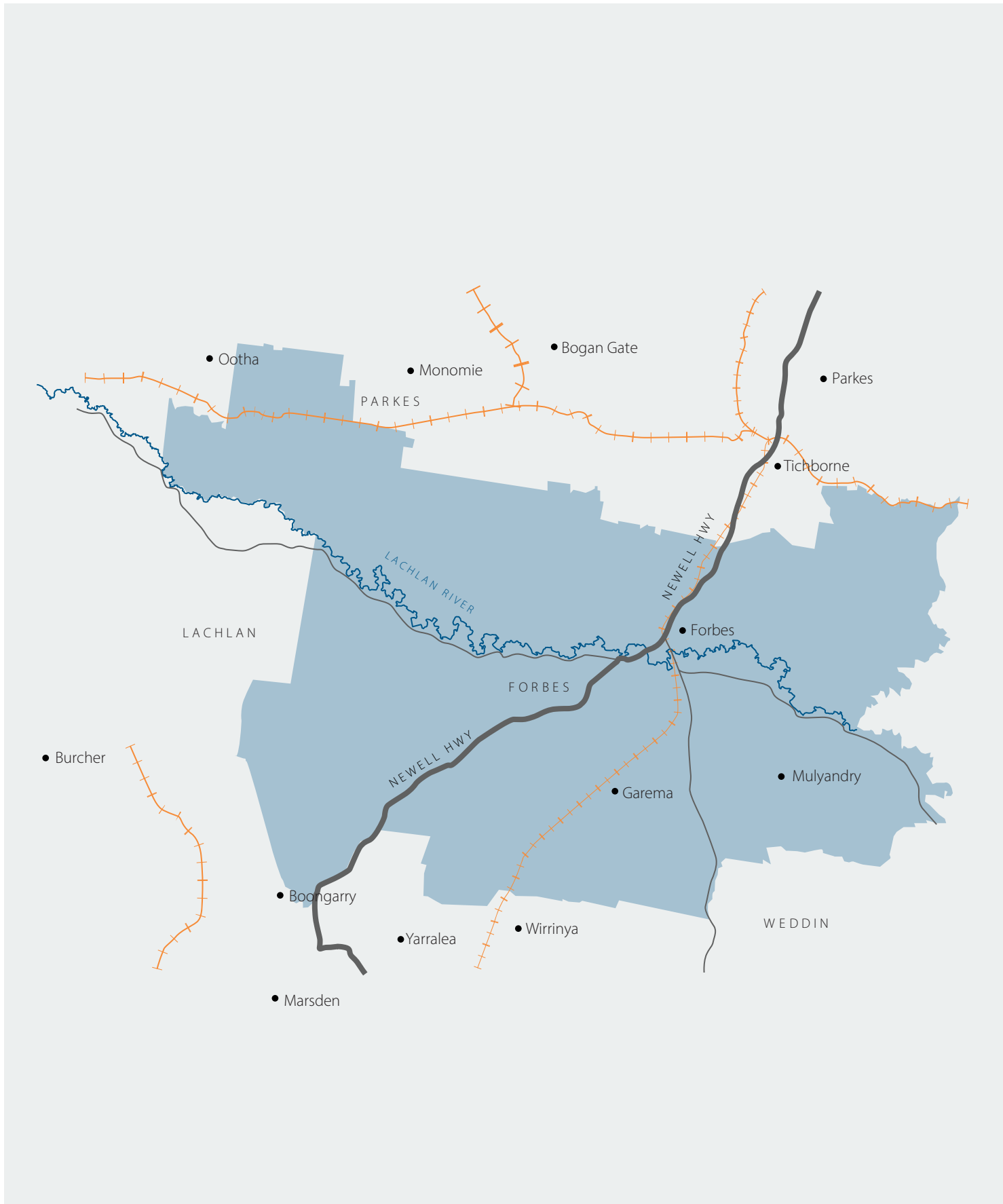


- Residential Development Potential
- Schools
- Lake Activation Plan

- Health Precinct
- Industrial Land
- Newell Highway

- CBD
- Strong Agricultural Industry
- Rail Line

Map 03: Main Transport Routes through Forbes Shire



Map 04: Forbes Shire in Context with NSW





Map 05: Lake Forbes Activation Precinct



Our Opportunities

Forbes is growing. The Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment is predicting a 5% growth over the next 20 years. The Shire needs to be prepared for this growth and the Local Strategic Planning Statement aims to ensure the community has a long term vision of what this growth will look like and how to best capitalise on this opportunity.

Over the next two decades, it is likely that there will be a change in the economic conditions of Forbes which may see growth beyond what is currently predicted. This is likely driven by the following factors:

1. The projected growth in key agricultural exports from the region to major growth markets such as parts of Asia will be a key economic driver for the region.
2. The Parkes National Logistics Hub Special Activation Precinct will support growth in various industries which are dependent upon transport connections to regional towns, ports and airports.
3. The Central West Livestock Exchange will expand and grow as the abovementioned changes take place, increasing employment and the agricultural industry in the Shire.
4. The ageing of the Australian population is expected to increase tourism growth into the Shire, benefited by our position on the Newell Highway and the Somewhere Down the Lachlan Sculpture Trail.
5. Several large State Significant developments such as the Expansion of North Parkes Mine and Lake Cowal Mine, development of the new mine at Fifield, and the increasing viability of Solar Farms.
6. A substantial expansion of Moxey's Dairy Farm making it the largest single-site dairy operation in the Southern Hemisphere.

As a result of these changes, expenditure within the region is expected to grow in turn resulting in an increasing population and lowering unemployment rate in Forbes.

Special Activation Precinct

A key goal of the LSPS is preparing for Forbes' response to the growth anticipated as a result of the Parkes National Logistics Hub - Special Activation Precinct (SAP). The SAP is 600 hectares of land poised for significant development to support investors in leveraging off the inland rail upgrades which will give quick rail access to most freight ports in Australia in less than a day. The Special Activation Precinct will be a significant employment and economic driver for the area and Forbes is well positioned to accommodate a large portion of this growth being 25 kilometres from the Newell Highway from the SAP.

OUR TOP 5

WHAT WE DO

WORKFORCE BREAKDOWN Forbes Dec 2017

Managers 22.06%	Professionals 20.44%
Sales Workers 12.48%	Community & Personal Service Workers 12.22%
Labourers 11.67%	



WHERE WE WORK

WORKFORCE BREAKDOWN Forbes Dec 2017

Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle 17.41%	Retail Trade 11.90%
Education & Training 11.40%	Residential Care & Social Assistance Services 7.24%
Health Care Services 5.59%	



\$266,000*

Median house prices

\$250*

Median rental

*realestate.com – May 2018

BUSINESSES IN FORBES

BUSINESS COUNT

Agricultural, Forestry & Fishing 17.45%	Construction 13.58%
Financial & Insurance Services 11.15%	Rental Hiring & Real Estate Services 7.09%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services 6.18%	

*data – REMPLAN June 2018



Our Community

9,844

Total Population

3,991

Total employed

0.020

Census Population Density (persons / ha)

51.31%

Working age population (15-59)

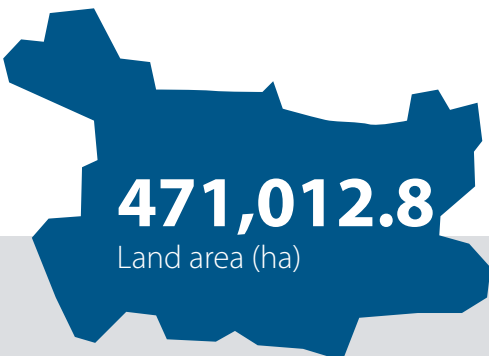
3.01% Unemployment rate

54.6% Labour force participation rate



1,681

Development applications submitted over the last 10 years. Worth in excess of \$342 million were lodged with Forbes Shire Council.



471,012.8
Land area (ha)

\$148.947

Per Worker Gross Regional Product (\$'000):

\$61.992

Per Capita Gross Regional Product (\$'000)

\$594.446

Gross Regional Product (\$M)

\$1.262

Per Hectare Gross Regional Product (\$'000)

FORBES TOP 5

OUTPUT BY INDUSTRY



\$243.3M

Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing



\$173.1M

Manufacturing



\$143.3M

Construction



\$108.6M

Rental, Hiring & Real Estate



\$63.0M

Health Care & Social Assistance

*ABS and REMPLAN Data June 2016



717

Number of businesses

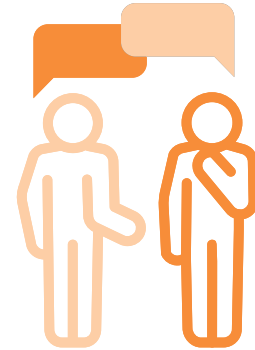


65.5%

Home ownership

13 SPORT GROUNDS

46 SPORTING GROUPS



32 COMMUNITY GROUPS



14 SCHOOLS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES



65%

AGED UNDER 55 YEARS OLD



FARMLAND
(Based on rate category)
4292.14 SQ.KM



7 PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS



BUSINESS LAND
(Based on rate category)
10.048 SQ.KM



WATER FEATURE CORRIDOR
39.866SQ. KM



RESIDENTIAL LAND
(Based on rate category)
27.649 SQ. KM



CROWN LAND RESERVE
1.991 SQ.KM

Parks and Open Space
1.991 SQ.KM
(in Forbes only)

State Forest
99.161 SQ KM



Our Vision

In 2040, Forbes will be the residential location of choice in the Central West because of its thriving town centre, recreational opportunities and diverse economy. It will leverage its position on the Newell Highway and Lachlan River to be a key agricultural and manufacturing hub while preserving and respecting the natural environment and our heritage.

The Forbes Town Centre will be the business and lifestyle centre of the Shire. A variety of businesses, restaurants and services will be thriving and supported by a vibrant town centre that takes advantage of smart infrastructure such as Free WiFi and digital creative art programs. The historic buildings and laneways are utilized for cafes, restaurants and markets, which attracts tourists interested in the Shire's rich history. The lake is a lively recreational area for families with marquee facilities and art and lifestyle installations drawing visitors from across the region.

Residential areas will enjoy strong growth while being mindful of environmental constraints. A wide range of housing options are available to meet the varying needs of a diverse population. New residential areas are supported by community services and things to do within walking distance. People want to live in Forbes because of the lifestyle available to its residents. We will have a strong art and festival calendar with a world class Sculpture Trail, new Art Gallery and strong links with Wiradjuri Culture. Forbes also has upgraded sporting facilities to enable the attraction of the top sporting events.

Forbes position on the Newell Highway and its proximity to the Parkes National Logistics Hub Special Activation Precinct supports a diverse industrial and commercial economy. Employment and population growth has remained

strong as we have supported our main industries and the key freight routes they rely on. Our agricultural land is preserved and respected. Forbes will continue to be a strong contributor to the national economy via the Central West Livestock Exchange, a strong Manufacturing and Agricultural economy, the booming Solar Farm industry and supporting mines in neighbouring Shire's.

Forbes Shire Council will lead the way into our progressive future by facilitating this vision. Council works collaboratively with the community, agencies and key interest groups to ensure that when change occurs it is a good fit for our local area, our lifestyle and the vision for Forbes encapsulated in this plan.

The historic buildings and laneways are utilized for cafes, restaurants and markets, which attracts tourists interested in the Shire's rich history.

Achieving our vision

Implementation

To achieve the 20 year vision for Forbes Shire, Council has identified 12 Planning Priorities to indicate the focus of future strategic planning work within the Forbes Shire. These are based upon four themes, being Our Lifestyle and Community, Our Local Economy, Our Infrastructure and Growth, Our Environment and Heritage.

These Planning Priorities will be delivered through a number of Actions listed within this plan. These may include researching different issues, implementing specific projects or preparing strategies. The LSPS may also influence amendments to the Forbes Local Environmental Plan or the Forbes Development Control Plan 2013.

Monitoring and Reporting

Council will monitor and report on the implementation of the actions to ensure that the planning priorities are being achieved. The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act states that the LSPS should be reviewed at least every 7 years. Council intends to however, as much as possible, align the review of the LSPS to other periods of review, such as:

- Review of Forbes' Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan (every 5 years); and
- Forbes Shire Community Strategic Plan review (every 4 years) and annual reporting.

Regular reviews will ensure that the LSPS reflects the vision the community has for the future of Forbes and is aligned to the latest trends and information available about the environment and the community's social and economic needs.

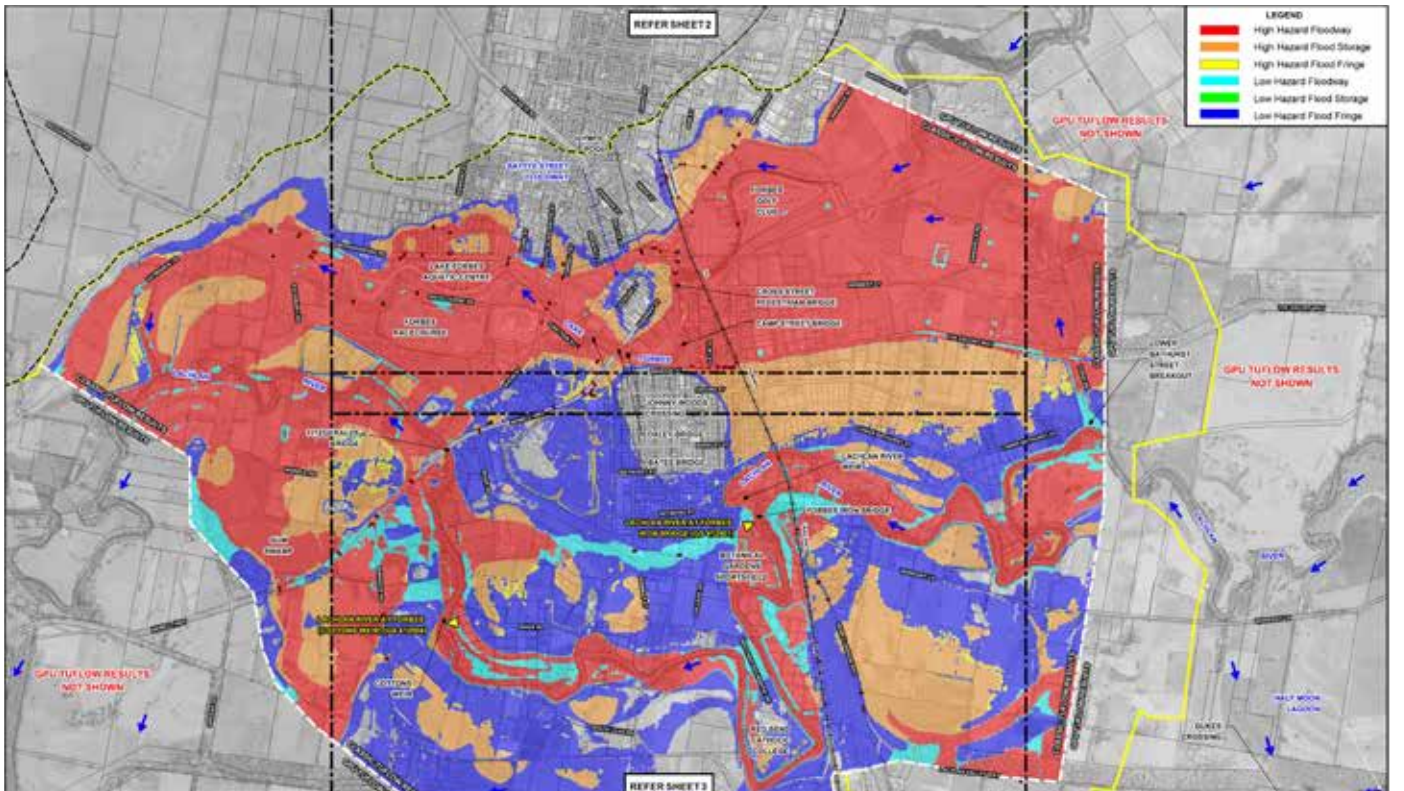


Our Themes & Planning Priorities

Four related themes make up the community’s vision for land use within the Forbes Shire Council: our lifestyle and community, our local economy, our infrastructure and growth and our environment. These four themes will be monitored against identified actions and measures and implemented through the 12 planning priorities.

The planning priorities will be delivered through strategies to guide land use decisions and actions to be undertaken by Forbes Shire Council over the next 20 years.

<p>Our Lifestyle and Community</p>	<p>LC1</p>  <p>Our Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>LC2</p>  <p>Our Community and Culture</p>	<p>LC3</p>  <p>Our Education and Health</p>	
<p>Our Local Economy</p>	<p>LE1</p>  <p>Our Agriculture</p>	<p>LE2</p>  <p>Our Industries</p>	<p>LE3</p>  <p>Our Town Centre</p>	<p>LE4</p>  <p>Our Tourism</p>
<p>Our Infrastructure and Growth</p>	<p>IG1</p>  <p>Our Infrastructure</p>	<p>IG2</p>  <p>Our Transport</p>	<p>IG3</p>  <p>Our Water Responsibilities</p>	
<p>Our Environment and Heritage</p>	<p>EH1</p>  <p>Our Resilience</p>	<p>EH2</p>  <p>Our Heritage and Biodiversity</p>		



Our Neighbourhoods



Deliver healthy, diverse and liveable neighbourhoods

Forbes supports the lifestyle of people of all capabilities and ages, allowing all residents to participate in community life and live in health and comfort. Housing will be designed and planned to suit the character of Forbes and future housing development should balance desirable places to live with environmental constraints. It should protect agricultural uses and be close to services and lifestyle opportunities and housing options should be diverse and abundant to ensure there is enough housing for all residents.

To grow a healthy and liveable community, new land releases should consider functionality, character and connectivity to the services people need and want to live near. Incorporating the right balance of housing types, open space and services assists in achieving good levels of liveability which will be important in developing Forbes as the lifestyle precinct of the Lachlan Region. To ensure that a range of accommodation options are available to suit the diverse needs and income levels of our community land use controls should continue to encourage infill development and renewal of older dwellings is easily accessible and a diverse range of housing options can be achieved and catered for.

The Forbes Housing Strategy will outline where new residential opportunities should be located and identifies the investigations needed for longer-term housing outcomes. It will determine the best approach in balancing housing demand and environmental constraints.

North Forbes is anticipated to cater for the vast majority of growing housing needs into the future. Council acknowledges that choosing residential growth options is a complex process, and there has been great community interest in planning decisions in South Forbes and Lower Bathurst Street in the recent years. The Housing Strategy will look into the views of the community and the environmental constraints of these areas to identify the best land use controls possible. There are currently areas of land zoned for Primary Production that in practice are used for either Small Lot Primary Production or Large Lot Residential type uses. These areas should be considered for possible rezonings that suit the needs of residents.

Forbes acknowledges that identifying future land release areas is a complex process with many varying factors. The Shire's most valuable environmental asset, the Lachlan River, is what makes Forbes a great place to live and Council acknowledges that residential land within proximity to the Lachlan River is highly desirable. This land however is often constrained by flood liability, reactive soils and groundwater vulnerability. The Shire will work with the community and stakeholders to ensure residential growth occurs in desirable areas while balancing environmental constraints.

Actions

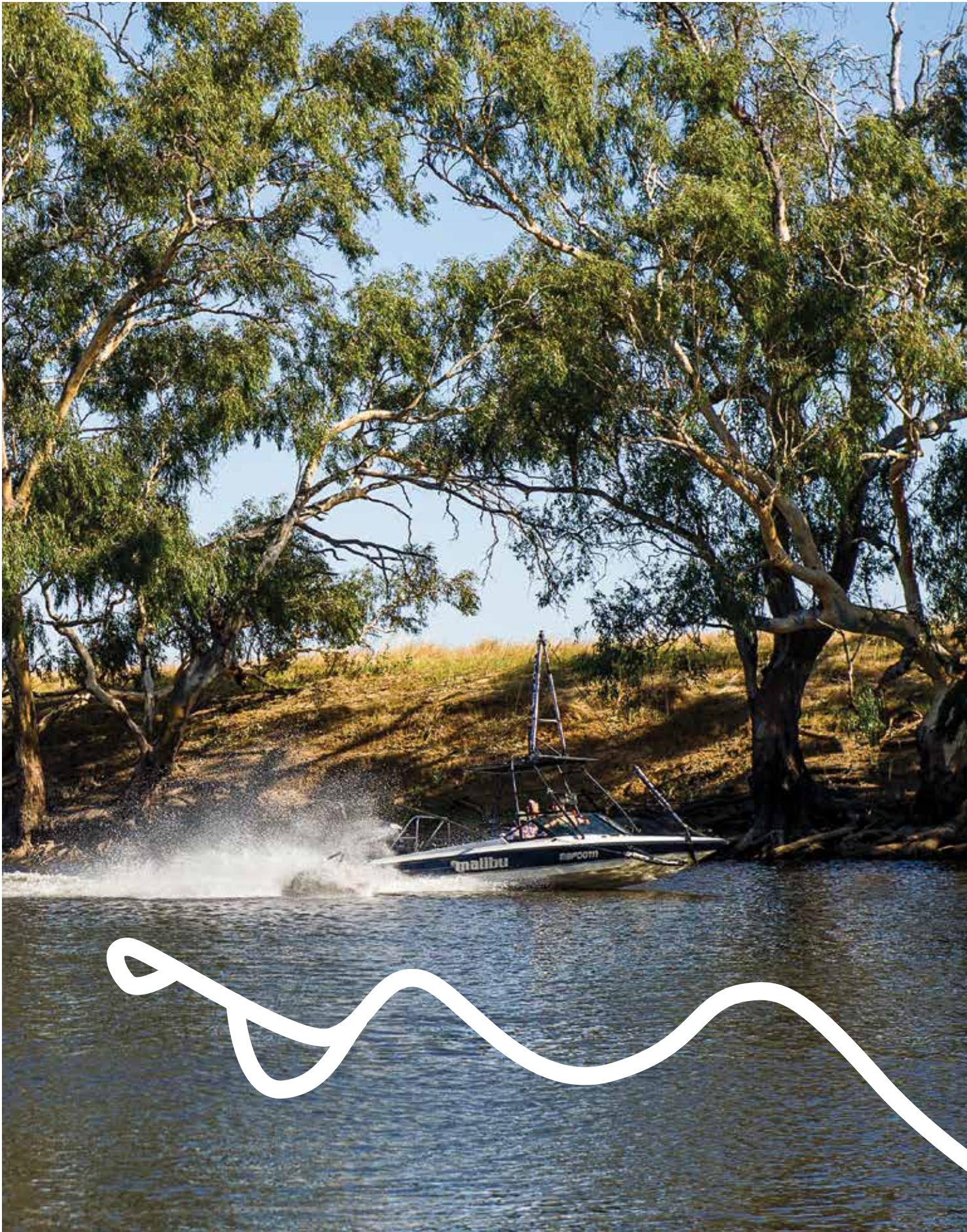
- Prepare a Housing Strategy that identifies future residential growth areas, plans land releases and proposes strategies to manage required infrastructure upgrades and environmental constraints such as flooding and groundwater vulnerability;
- Investigate any barriers to the supply of varied housing types and amend land use controls if necessary;
- Investigate land use controls that support infill development and implement as necessary;
- Rezone land as appropriate to support residential growth and future land releases.

Forbes supports the lifestyle of people of all capabilities and ages, allowing all residents to participate in community life and live in health and comfort.



Map 06: Residential development options







Our Community & Lifestyle



Improve community facilities to support a diverse lifestyle

The community and cultural infrastructure of Forbes consists of a diverse range of open space networks and community facilities, with the centre of the township being Lake Forbes and the historic town centre and streetscapes. The Shire is also home to a variety of village halls and sports grounds, also vital in the resilience and development of the shire.

Over the next 20 years the demographics of Forbes will grow in the 5-9 years, 20-29 years and the 60+ age groups. This indicates that Council will need to ensure adequate facilities are available for children, parents and older residents as a priority.

The Forbes Community Strategic Plan (CSP) identifies that young people need a range of locally based age- appropriate activities, services and facilities to ensure overall wellbeing. This investment is essential for the attraction and retention of young people and young families to Forbes and will ensure that the community maintains its vibrancy and energy and is able to grow and develop economically. This investment needs to continue not just in the township of Forbes but also in outlying village areas.

The over 60 age demographic has the potential to contribute greatly to the economy of Forbes and that of the state as tourists travelling primarily by road seeking out experiences in small towns. The Shire is able to accommodate this age group as travellers and as residents through the provision of activities and events as well as appropriate community, health and cultural services to ensure that they are cared for and are able to live comfortably within the Forbes Shire and if possible age in place.

To support the diverse age range in our growing population, Council should investigate, identify and plan new facilities and services that support all ages such as multipurpose community centres, public transport in collaboration with neighbouring Councils, and conduct events and activities catering to a wide demographic. Also critical to consider within the provision of facilities, events and infrastructure is the proportion of residents from diverse cultural backgrounds and those with disability. It is essential that in councils planning and project implementation that all facilities and services are accessible to the entire community by working with key stakeholder groups such as Aboriginal Communities and other interest groups.

Council should also look at improving and upgrading existing facilities. Improvements could be made to the Public Library which will grow the relationship the community has to the facility, and the Town Hall has the ability to be reinvigorated as a function centre. The town pool could be investigated for a new Indoor/Outdoor heated pool facility which would be utilised by residents of the entire region. Improving the cultural and community services for the diverse community of Forbes will also attract and retain people to the Forbes Shire and achieve the vision of becoming the lifestyle precinct of the Lachlan Region.

Actions

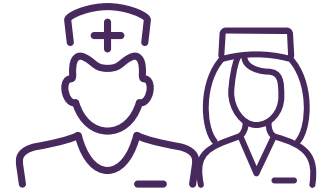
- Prepare a Sports and Recreation Strategy and establish function and use for the existing sporting and recreational open space and to capitalise on future opportunities;
- Implement the Lake Forbes Activation Plan;
- Investigate and rezone land for high quality recreational spaces and move away from "pocket park" green infrastructure;
- Amend the Forbes Development Control Plan to integrate cultural infrastructure planning within land use and master planning; and
- Implement and maintain the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan.

Improving the cultural and community services for the diverse community of Forbes will also attract and retain people to the Forbes Shire...





Our Health & Education



Priority: Identify, maintain and improve health and education services to support the needs of the community

Health

Supportive services in the form of health and education are key elements of achieving the 20 year vision for Forbes. Health and education are important components as these services are the backbone of the economy, community and are vital to the retention of the diverse demographics within Forbes. Most importantly, providing and enhancing health and education will support the growth of a town, city or region.

The area surrounding Forbes District Hospital has organically become the health precinct of Forbes with services such as Forbes Medical Centre, Jemalong Regional Education Centre (JREC), ambulance station and the Aboriginal Medical Service Yoorana Gunya. The growth of the health precinct is vital as the population of Forbes ages over time. Beyond the health are a number of health and allied health services which include additional medical facilities, two dental practices, Jemalong Retirement Village, chiropractic services, optometrists,

pharmacies, natural medicine and remedial therapy. Investigations should take place to expand the Forbes Hospital and include and expand specialist services such as Renal, Maternity and Imaging.

Collectively the health precinct, supportive services and the Jemalong Residential Village provide the health care network for the Forbes Local Government Area and provides health services to a wider catchment area. The extent of the catchment is currently unknown and needs to be investigated. The current challenges that for the provision of health relate to the retention of staff, accommodation for locum staff and maintaining health services.

Education

Forbes provides education services to support the community from early childhood to adult education. There are currently five childcare and preschool centres, four primary schools, two high schools, TAFE campus and the Forbes College for Seniors. The Forbes Library and Forbes Bus lines support the education sector within Forbes.

The future economic drivers of the National Logistics Hub (SAP), Inland Rail, mining, freight and logistics, diversification of agricultural sector and increasing renewable energy projects will continue to lead to skills shortage within Forbes and the wider Lachlan Region. It is vital to have a skilled workforce to accommodate the future economic growth. The growing need to provide and retain skilled workers

to support the growing economy is identified as a priority in the Forbes Agriculture Strategy 2018-2030.

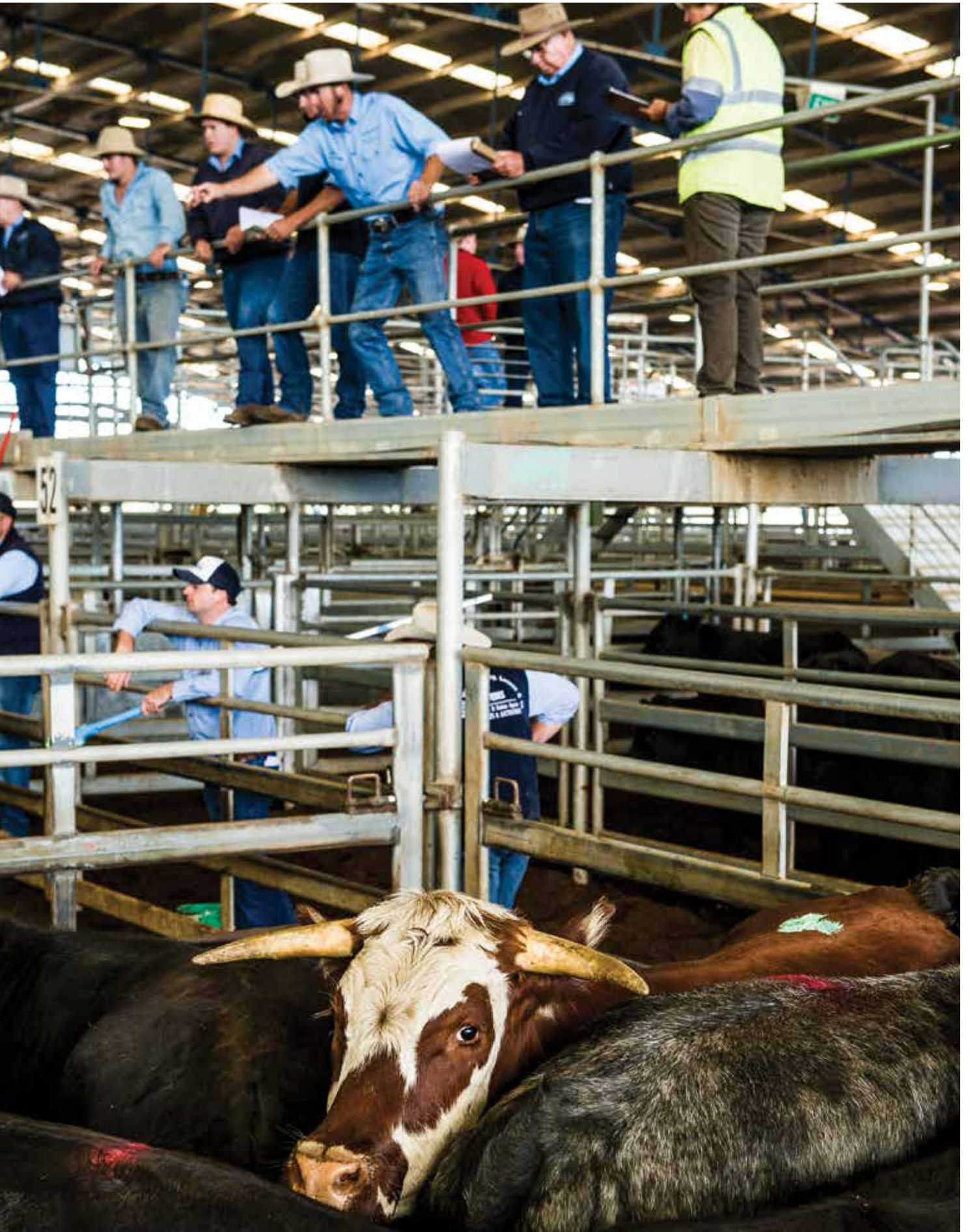
To retain people within the Forbes LGA seeking higher education opportunities will require providing facilities and infrastructure to online learning for universities, improvement of TAFE facilities, identification of skills gaps and to work with TAFE NSW and universities to provide joint-partnerships within the Forbes Local Government Area.

Actions

- Collaborate with NSW Health and NSW TAFE to identify what health and education services are needed to support the growth of the community.
- Investigate existing public and private infrastructure that can provide accommodation for health and education professionals and implement a strategy to ensure this is provided
- Investigate formalizing the Health Precinct within the DCP and LEP.
- Work with relevant stakeholders to deliver joint-venture opportunities for shared community and school facilities on school sites, including sporting fields, amenities, parking, community halls, child care, arts and library facilities

Map 07: Forbes Health Precinct





Our Agriculture

Protect and support the growing diversification of the agricultural sector

Forbes is in a prime position to support a diversifying and growing agricultural sector due to its strategic location on the Lachlan River and Newell Highway, as well as its proximity to the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. It is considered one of the most productive agricultural areas in NSW contributing \$97m of Gross Regional Product with the industry accounting for 18% of employment in the Shire. The natural environmental advantages of the Lachlan River, alluvial soils, and ground water aquifers, location along the Newell Highway and close proximity to the National Logistics Hub and Inland Rail set Forbes apart from the Central West as an agricultural powerhouse. This is evident by the Gross Regional Product of \$97m and exportation rate of 80% of products produced within Forbes and exported from the Forbes LGA.

A point of difference for the agricultural sector of Forbes is the presence of the Central West Livestock Exchange (CWLE) which is a state of the art livestock saleyard that has the largest Sheep throughput in the state and is the only saleyards with regular pig sales. Land Use zoning needs to ensure that Central West Livestock Exchange has room to grow, while ensuring development immediately surrounding the site will not cause land use conflict. There are also value-adding opportunities for the CWLE and Council should continue to work with stakeholders to identify and provide land for the co-location of industries compatible with CWLE.

The agriculture sector over the next 20 years will grow and diversify to meet the global demand for food. The diversification of the agricultural sector will see the growth in value adding, agribusiness and improving supply chain efficiencies.

To support growth, diversification and flexibility for the agricultural sector identification and protection of prime agricultural land is required to minimise land use conflict, fragmentation and encroachment of incompatible land uses. Protecting this land within the Forbes LGA will be achieved through mapping prime agricultural land as per the Regional Agricultural Development Strategy, maintaining existing agricultural holding sizes, reducing incompatible land uses, improving land use conflict controls and managing the interface between important agricultural land and other land uses.

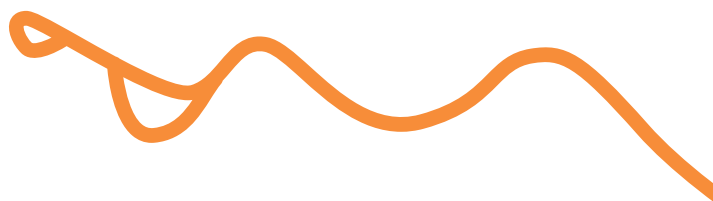
Forbes Shire Council within the Forbes Agricultural Strategy 2018-2030 has identified the Central West Industrial Park primarily for the purpose of value-added and manufacturing generally. Infrastructure, especially NBN, telecommunication connections, Natural Gas and electricity need upgrading and connecting to the Central West Industrial Park which will require significant investment, grant funding and collaboration with government agencies to ensure the services are provided to the Central West Industrial Park.

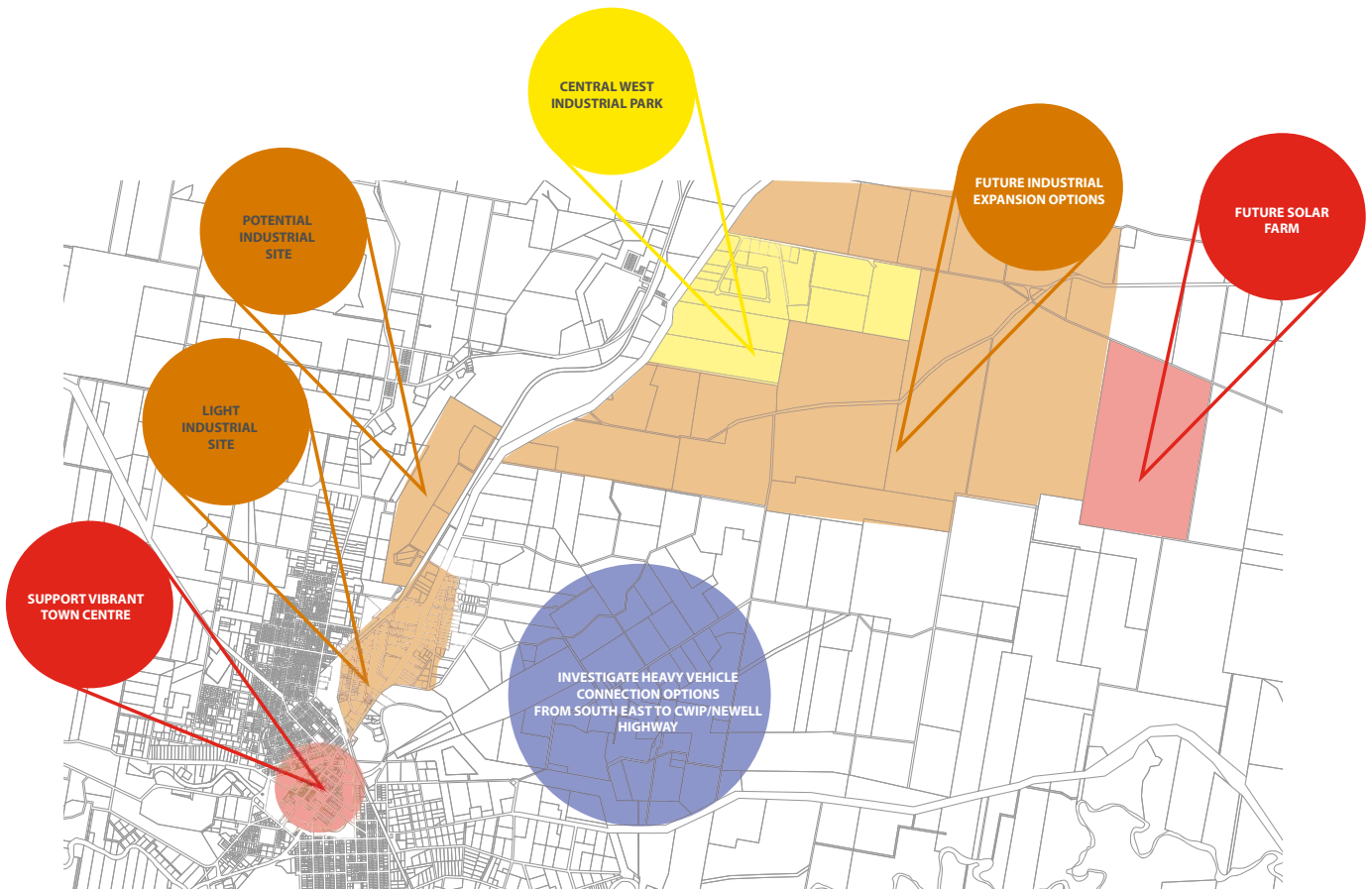


Actions

- Research what diversification and value-adding opportunities looks like for Forbes and consult with stakeholders to determine how land use controls can support this. Implement changes as appropriate.
- Implement the actions identified within the Forbes Agricultural Strategy 2018-2030
- Research best practice land use controls to prevent land use conflict, especially for important agricultural land. Implement LEP and DCP controls as appropriate to reflect best practice and ensure this is taken into account when determining Development Applications.

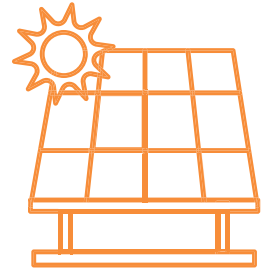
The agriculture sector over the next 20 years will grow and diversify to meet the global demand for food.





Our Industries

Support and grow our Industries



Forbes has been identified in the Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 (Regional Plan) as a future manufacturing hub for the State. Forbes currently has a strong manufacturing industry with HE Silo's, Topsoil Organics, Lachlan Commodities and Moxey's Farm all positioned within the Shire. Forbes is also experiencing unprecedented growth in general and heavy industries, as well as emerging technologies such as Solar Farms and has the potential to host High Technology Industries.

The Central West Industrial Park (CWIP) is expected to accommodate the vast majority of future industrial growth in Forbes going forward and is also well placed to support agricultural value-adding industries such as grain milling and fibre processing. The Forbes Agricultural Strategy identified a need for an Abattoir and Cotton Gin in the Shire which could both be accommodated within the vicinity of the CWIP and Central West Livestock Exchange. To support these industries, especially emerging technologies, significant infrastructure upgrades will be required such as Water, Electricity, Sewer and NBN (preferably Fibre to the Premises connection). There has also been growing community and industry interest for an Eastern Bypass to connect Orange Road directly with CWIP Council will need to work with stakeholders and land owners to investigate the expansion of the Industrial Park in line with the Mid-Lachlan Regional Economic Development Strategy. This will promote Forbes as a proactive region for industrial and manufacturing industries. Land immediately surrounding the CWIP is suitable for immediate investigation and there are also sufficient opportunities for new Industrial Land along the Newell Highway and the South-North Rail Corridor

which provide connections to the regional freight network and the Parkes Special Activation Precinct.

Forbes also needs to ensure that there is sufficient land supply for Light Industrial uses who typically need a smaller lots than what is appropriate for the CWIP. This has typically been accommodated closer to town, north of the town centre on streets adjacent to the Newell Highway. However, this land has quickly reached capacity and investigation into future land releases will need to occur. A future Business Park may meet the growing need for light industrial and small scale manufacturing and should be located in close proximity to major road infrastructure and with minimal land use conflicts.

Our rural localities have a strong history of supporting Extractive Industries with multiple quarries throughout the Shire. Forbes is also well placed to accommodate significant industrial developments such as Mines and Solar Farms. These should be encouraged while protecting agricultural land and minimising land use conflict. A key inhibitor of these types of developments is the lack of housing stock available for itinerate workers. Council should investigate best practice methods for housing temporary workers, while encouraging proponents to engage local employees as much as possible

Actions

- Ensure an adequate supply of suitably zoned and serviced land for commercial and industrial redevelopment;
- Work with landholders and stakeholders to identify the best location for the future expansion of the Central West Industrial Park;
- Investigate how best to accommodate light industrial and small scale manufacturing uses and rezone land as appropriate;
- Identify locations for future large scale industries such as mines and solar farms outside of agricultural land and future residential growth areas.
- Prepare a study on infrastructure upgrades required to support expansion and use of the Central West Industrial Park.





Our Town Centre

Celebrate and protect active street frontages of the town centre while growing the retail and hospitality industries.



The Heritage town centre of Forbes is the retail hub of the Shire. Located between Lawler Street and the Newell Highway the Forbes town centre continues to be the dominant location for retail and commercial services consisting of boutique retailers, cafes, art galleries, professional services and larger chain retailers. The local character of the Town Centre is defined by our iconic buildings such as the old Ambulance Station, the Australia Hotel building, the Vandenberg Hotel, historic bank buildings and the zero setback traditional main street design of the shop fronts. This character is seen as a key feature of Forbes by our community and should be protected.

Retail makes up a strong proportion of the Forbes Economy and is growing. For example, in 2018 the retail sector in Forbes recorded annual growth rates of 7.9% in total output, despite drought and other impacts on the economy. An important element of the local character of the town centre are our independent retailers selling unique and high quality items. Forbes must ensure that small businesses are prioritised in street facing buildings in the town centre to maintain the unique shopping experience that residents across the region now equate with Forbes. Council encourages our town's character through the Development Control Plan that presents the heritage status of a building as an opportunity via flexible controls to support their use. These controls should be preserved.

A night time economy encourages a vibrant centre and has both economic and social benefits. This is an area that can be grown greatly in Forbes by promoting uses such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and entertainment premises. A vibrant

night time economy while supporting arts and creative expression will entice people to visit the town centre which would otherwise be deserted on weekends and evenings. Land use controls that encourage night time uses should be investigated and encouraged.

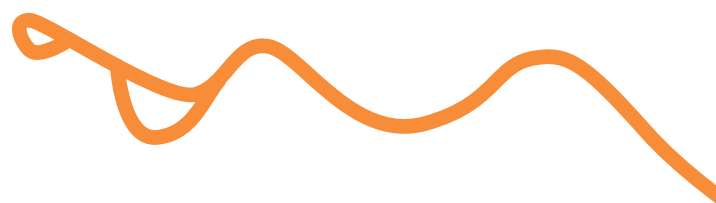
While Forbes maintains a strong commitment to prioritising active street frontages in the town centre, business development in other areas are often appropriate due to the scale or nature of the proposal or other potential benefits to the community. For example, there has been an expansion of bulky retail developments that led to the creation of the Homemaker's Centre on the Newell Highway, while Lake Forbes has been utilised for cafes via mobile food vans to complement its recreational opportunities.

Council has begun a place management approach via the creation of the CBD Masterplan which will grow the town centre as a destination town for residents and visitors to Forbes. This approach aims to improve the physical attractiveness and use opportunities of the town centre while maintaining its heritage. As part of this, Council should investigate how digital technology can support the local retail economy as on a global level retail shifts to a primarily online space. This could look like WiFi in the CBD, interactive online information technology visitors can access from their smart phone, and modern art installations. A digital strategy could flesh these out and identify what is best for the Forbes town centre.

Actions

- Support implementation of the CBD Masterplan and uses that maintain active street frontages;
- Work with stakeholders and industry experts to prepare a Digital Strategy which investigates the use of digital technology and implement programs to support patronage of the town centre;
- Consult with stakeholders to determine barriers to retail and hospitality growth in the town centre. Implement strategies to overcome barriers and if appropriate review and update the Development Control Plan and Local Environmental Plan to support these uses; and
- Investigate and implement Local Character Statements to preserve the character of the town centre.

Retail makes up a strong proportion of the Forbes Economy and is growing.





Our Tourism

Promote and diversify the tourism economy in Forbes



The Forbes Tourism market is diverse, with both interstate travelers along the Newell Highway and visitors from the region taking advantage of our recreational opportunities along the lake, our diverse indigenous and non-indigenous heritage, art and culture experiences and the regular smorgasbord of events held in town. Grey nomads are a key market for Forbes Shire as is the visiting friends and relatives segment.

Key attractions for domestic tourists in Forbes include the iconic heritage CBD, the Somewhere Down the Lachlan Sculpture Trail, recreational opportunities on the Lachlan River and on and around Lake Forbes as well as notorious bushranger Ben Hall's grave site. Forbes also has an extensive calendar of events and markets that encourage visitors to town seeking bespoke experiences and a strong local produce sector.

To grow Tourism in Forbes, an increase in the infrastructure around the visitor experience is needed. The Forbes Community Strategic Plan has identified a need for a "Central Tourist Hub" with a key point of difference to bring visitors into Forbes. Land Use Controls should be flexible to accommodate new tourist opportunities as they arise.

Forbes has the potential to become a unique event destination in the Central West, with regular events and activities available to visitors on weekends and during peak travel periods. It is also a growing creative and sculpture destination with the multimillion dollar projects being driven by the local arts community. To encourage visitors to travel into the town centre, clear signage and wayfinding with consistent branding is a priority. Forbes also needs a diverse and broad range of accommodation options for tourists,

especially those that accommodate RV and Caravan parking and a strengthened food and beverage sector. A lack of a strong transport connection from Sydney remains a strong barrier for tourism to Forbes, however clearly defined transport links from other major town centres will assist in capturing the growing domestic tourism market.

Forbes has strong potential in the agri-tourism market, such as paddock to plate, farm stay accommodation and nature based tourism. This again requires development of infrastructure including function centres, visitor and tourist accommodation and improved controls to provide clear guidance and direction to tourism industry investors. Land use zoning and development controls will need to be updated to provide clear guidance and foster the growth of the tourism sector.

Key attractions for domestic tourists in Forbes include the iconic heritage CBD, the Somewhere Down the Lachlan Sculpture Trail

Actions

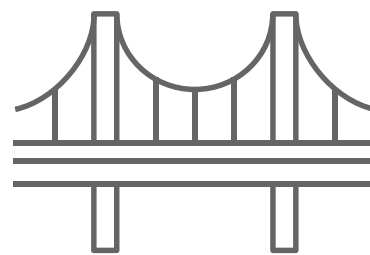
- Develop a Central Tourist Hub in the new location for the Forbes Visitor Information Centre as a key point for visitors which reflects the vibrant, unique and creative nature of Forbes;
- Work with State Government Agencies to enhance transport links from Sydney;
- Provide essential services for tourists to encourage them to stop and stay in the town, such as a strong town centre, accommodation, caravan services, food and beverage providers and public amenities; and
- Ensure land use zonings and development controls encourage a range of attractions and experiences for tourists such as events, tours, functions, art installations, unique produce and other activities.
- Investigate and implement the use of Digital Technologies to grow Tourism in Forbes.





Our Infrastructure

Identify, plan and provide infrastructure in line with growth



Infrastructure is critical to the proper functioning and wellbeing of the community both now and in the future. It is important that infrastructure is provided in the right places and at the right time to support our growing community. The first step to this is developing various growth scenarios to aid in identifying the services, land and infrastructure that is required to accommodate the forecasted growth associated with the Special Activation Precinct and other projects in the Shire.

The provision of infrastructure to our community is a complex process that needs to be completed carefully. Council needs to not only augment existing local infrastructure to support residential expansion, but also undertake renewals and upgrades of existing infrastructure to maintain the quality of service currently afforded to residents. A coordinated and strategic approach will therefore be needed to ensure infrastructure is provided in a cost effective manner to meet future growth in the Shire. This will be achieved in balance by both Council and future developers working concurrently to achieve outcomes. Council should predict future land use demands and provide appropriate infrastructure and services to encourage growth in appropriate areas, while applicants for new developments should address how infrastructure will be provided where land is not already serviced.

Lack of telecommunication infrastructure has been specifically identified as a barrier for industrial and commercial growth in the Shire. The NBN network requires further upgrades to truly support our Shire, and there are many phone reception "blackspots" especially in rural areas which hinder agricultural growth. A coordinated approach with government and private agencies to ensure telecommunication

infrastructure upgrades occur where they are needed is vital to support the anticipated growth of Forbes. In addition to this, the Agricultural Strategy raised the need to increase and improve Electricity, Natural Gas and Road Network Infrastructure throughout the Shire to support our rural residents and industries.

Ensuring future growth is accommodated with appropriate infrastructure will be a collaborative effort with all levels of government. A coordinated subregional approach between Forbes and Parkes in collaboration with the state and federal governments will assist the Shires in responding to potential growth and land use demand triggered by the SAP.

Actions

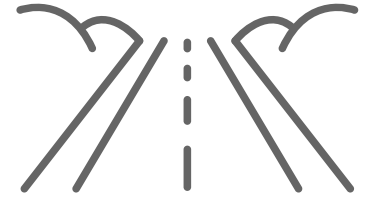
- Investigate demographic statistics for various growth scenarios to assist in infrastructure planning;
- Work with government and private agencies to deliver upgraded telecommunication and NBN infrastructure upgrades;
- Update the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (IWCM) addressing infrastructure options to service future growth areas within a low, medium and high growth scenarios whilst maintaining existing service levels to the current serviced areas; and
- Investigate and determine the infrastructure needs for the local community in line with identified areas of growth. Prepare a Developer Servicing Plan and align Council's Capital Works Program with identified future infrastructure needs.
- Prepare stormwater studies for Cypress Lane and South Forbes drainage corridors and amend the LEP and DCP as required to implement these studies.





Our Transport

Improve and enhance transport connections to improve access to global markets



Forbes' position on the Newell Highway and the North-South rail corridor makes it an ideal location for commercial, industrial and agricultural industries. The National Logistics Hub in Parkes will further support these industries as strong rail and road links from the Hub to Forbes are vital for their growth. Improved freight and logistics connections to the Hub will provide significant supply chain efficiencies, reduce costs and expedite access to global markets growing our industries throughout the shire. It is expected this growth will result in population expansion requiring greater provision of infrastructure and increase demand for residential supply and community services over the next 20 years.

Forbes benefits from being 5 hours and 3 hours respectively to Sydney and Canberra and there are state level plans to increase B-Double access into Sydney and other east coast ports from the Central West. Infrastructure upgrades in the Shire will accommodate larger and heavier vehicles, which will increase the viability of the manufacturing industry and support the diversification of agriculture by assisting these industries reach markets via the shortest and most efficient route possible. Forbes was isolated for a significant amount of time during the 2016 floods due to the susceptibility of the Newell Highway to flooding, and significant upgrades are required to ensure this doesn't happen again. Road and bridge upgrades such as the Waroo Bridge upgrade will link the remote areas of the Shire to the Newell Highway, and there may be an opportunity to encourage industrial uses in these remote areas to limit their impact on residential land. Subsequent agricultural and industrial growth from these upgrades will need to be accommodated in the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan.

To grow these industries in Forbes, Council must also ensure that transport corridors are protected. While Newell Highway frontage is highly desirable for new industrial and commercial developments, multiple accesses can hinder the efficiency of highway transport. This can be balanced by working with Transport for NSW to address access concerns at the subdivision or rezoning stage of new industrial and commercial land releases while maintaining desirable highway frontage and advertisement opportunities which will support the viability of new developments. The efficient movement of freight requires a strategy that integrates it with the efficient movement of people, especially in and around the town centre whilst protecting urban amenity and freight access. Flint Street is currently listed as a State Road and is open to high numbers of heavy vehicle traffic, limiting both development opportunities for the area and highway efficiency. This combined with the limitations of the Iron Bridge means that investigations into bypass connectivity on the east side of Forbes is warranted.

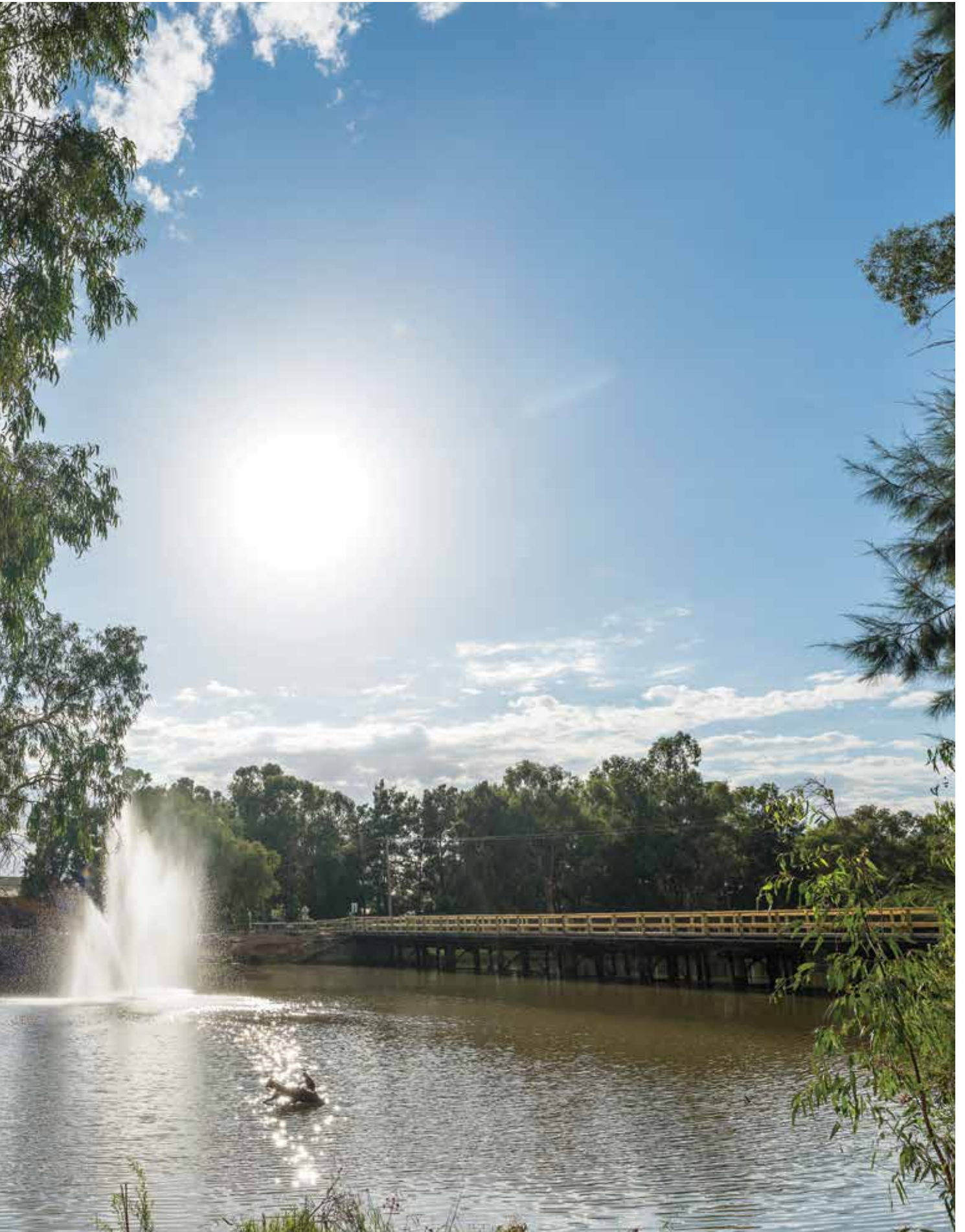
Forbes Shire has a strong North-South rail corridor with rail sidings throughout the Shire. Access to these sites remain a high priority for Forbes in supporting the grain industry, and they may also benefit the growing manufacturing industry. Land use controls should encourage diversification of industry along rail corridors and support new rail sidings where appropriate.

The National Logistics Hub in Parkes has led to an increased need for freight, passenger and private airspace into the region. Forbes is well placed to provide additional airspace for one or all of these movements, and land use controls should be reviewed to take advantage of the airports proximity to town, National Logistics Hub and adjoining agricultural land.

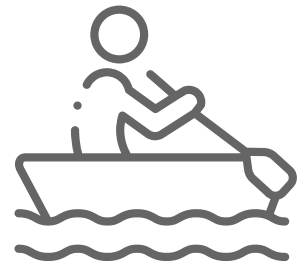
Actions

- Ensure land zonings will accommodate the investment and growth in the Shire expected from infrastructure upgrades;
- Investigate future growth options for the Forbes Aerodrome and ensure land use controls support any predicted growth including possible residential uses;
- Investigate how the agricultural and manufacturing sector can leverage inland rail and the special activation precinct to move freight to markets and ports and action any changes as appropriate;
- Upgrade transport routes in rural areas to ensure agricultural businesses can reach markets via the most direct route inline with the Agricultural Strategy
- Increase flood resilience of the Newell Highway.





Our Water Responsibilities



Ensure land use planning and water management are integrated

As Forbes is located along the Lachlan River and within an alluvial floodplain it has an abundance of affordable water that makes the Shire an ideal place for industrial and residential investment. Water scarcity is an emerging issue within the Central West and could impact on the viability of various sectors within the region. The reliability of the Forbes water source is likely to bring new industries to the Shire and also makes Forbes intrinsically important to new development in neighbouring Shires such as the Parkes Special Activation Precinct.

Water security is vital for industrial and residential land releases into the future. A number of infrastructure projects have been identified and will be implemented over the next 20 years to provide water security for the Forbes LGA and the region including the replacement of the water treatment plant, duplication of pipelines to bores and water pressure projects. To ensure water efficiency for new subdivisions, Council should investigate the viability of including stormwater reuse in the DCP.

Council's role as Land Use Managers is to ensure that our water sources are protected from incompatible uses. Any development with frontage to the Lachlan River or on land identified as Groundwater Vulnerable should be assessed for potential contamination risks. The Local Planning for Healthy Waterways using NSW Water Quality Objectives document from the NSW Government recommends using strategic plans to identify potential

vegetation buffer zones to help protect water quality of the Lachlan River. Research into this will need to be undertaken as part of a future land use strategy. The Forbes Agricultural Study recommends that the development of new mining and other high water-use developments balance the need to protect water supplies for stock and domestic water and agricultural uses. Controls to this effect should be considered for inclusion into the DCP.

The Jemalong Irrigation District is a strong Irrigation area positioned west of the Forbes Township. The Shire's water reliability means that the Jemalong Irrigation Area is well positioned to supply high value agricultural produce, value adding and efficient exportation from the Parkes intermodal hub. This combined with the raising of Wyangala Dam has given Jemalong Irrigation Area the opportunity to be a nationally significant irrigation area. There have been a growing number of large water storages seeking DA approval as a result of the increased viability of irrigated plant agriculture in Forbes, which are a new type of development for the Shire. Council needs to work with stakeholders to identify appropriate land use controls for our DCP that supports Irrigated Agriculture while managing land use conflict.

Actions

- Work with stakeholders and research best practice water management to investigate how land use controls can best ensure the efficient use of water in all land uses;
- Work with stakeholders to investigate appropriate land use controls for Irrigated Agriculture and large Water Storages and update the LEP and DCP as required;
- Implement water infrastructure upgrades as required;
- Investigate the use of buffer zones to protect the Lachlan River and mark these within the DCP if appropriate; and
- Update the DCP to include matters for consideration in the assessment of proposals on Groundwater Vulnerable land

**Water security
is vital for
industrial and
residential land
releases into
the future.**





Our Resilience

Priority: Plan for resilience in natural hazards and a changing climate



Forbes must be proactive in planning and preparing for a changing climate. This involves building our capacity to rapidly respond to natural hazards such as flooding and drought, and pre-planning development to minimise the impact of these natural hazards

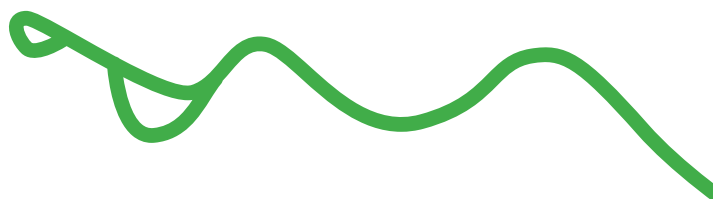
Climate Change is an area where strong strategy must be developed to improve the community and landscape resilience as climate change will increase the occurrence of droughts within the region. A Shire Resilience Plan for Climate Change and Natural Hazards will be important to inform how Council can best support residents and producers into the future. Council will need to update Bushfire Mapping for the Shire against new best practice, and review update the Roadside Vegetation Policy to minimise bushfire risk.

Forbes is in a position to contribute to regional and national initiatives to address climate change by supporting the development of small and large scale solar farms in the shire. Forbes is also well placed to be a micro-site for innovation projects in agriculture, environment and technology areas to support resilience to climate change. Appropriate locations for these developments should be looked into in conjunction with federal and state government agencies and the Forbes DCP should be updated to ensure adequate controls are in place to mitigate any impacts of these emerging industries on the community.

The Lachlan River is a prized asset of our region, however, the proximity of townships to our river increases the impacts of flooding to our community members. Riverfront views are highly sought after and balancing the need of preserving our natural assets and permitting suitable development can be complicated. Forbes Council will continue to work towards updating the Forbes Floodplain Risk Management Study to ensure Council has the most up-to-date information on the impacts of climate change to our community. We will build resilience and improve outcomes to natural hazards and climate change through preparing strategies and policies in line with the Floodplain Development Manual 2005 and the *Western Enabling Regional Adaptation- Central West and Orana region report and the 2018-2030 Agricultural Strategy*.

Actions

- Build drought resilience by supporting value-adding industries on agricultural land that is not dependent on water use;
- Identify, plan and respond to issues surrounding climate change and natural disasters and their short and long term impact in line with the Central West Orana Regional Adaptation report;
- Update the Forbes Floodplain Risk Management Study;
- Partner with federal and state government agencies to develop Forbes as a microsite for innovation projects in the agriculture, environmental, and technology areas;





Our Heritage & Biodiversity

Priority: Protect and enhance our heritage and biodiversity



Built heritage is highly visible across the Shire, providing a valued contribution to our local identity. Forbes has strong Indigenous and European heritage, both of which need to be preserved for future generations to come. The Forbes LEP designates a Heritage Conservation Area over the Forbes town centre, however significant heritage is found throughout the Forbes townships and other areas of the shire.

Forbes has an abundance of Local Heritage items as well as several State Heritage Listed items. These include Ben Halls Grave, Ben Halls Shooting Site, Forbes Railway Station and the Forbes Post Office. The civic centre surrounding Victoria Park is a key local heritage precinct as well as many heritage homes throughout Forbes, especially on "Camp Hill" in the south of Forbes.

Tourism and Heritage are intrinsically linked in Forbes. The Shire's position on the Newell Highway means that it is surrounded by other heritage towns creating an informal regional "Heritage Trail" which could be formalised into the future. Working in conjunction with West Wyalong, Parkes and Dubbo in preserving our respective unique heritage could enhance tourism for the region into the future.

The Town Centre of Forbes offers opportunities for adaptive re-use of heritage items as the demand for retail, hospitality and a range of services grows. Council will continue to encourage the use of our heritage buildings to help preserve them by ensuring our land use controls are flexible and adaptable to the reality of occupying heritage buildings. This can be achieved by preparing an adaptive reuse strategy that will inform new land use controls and development assessment processes for heritage buildings. Council has already begun researching the possibility of reviewing the CBD Heritage Conservation Area to ensure it reflects the heritage status of the town centre. An assessment of the town centre that identifies contributory, neutral and non-contributory items will assist in identifying potential future locations of various types of developments.

The Forbes Community Strategic Plan 2018 identifies that existing and continued land clearing from predominately agricultural activities has had an impact on the natural environment and biodiversity. Forbes Shire Council recognises the need to preserve the remaining bushland and foster the local biodiversity. The existing biodiversity mapping within the Forbes Local Environmental Plan 2013 will need to be updated to improve legibility and clarity as to the location of the high value environmental assets. This will be prepared in conjunction with Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment.

Actions

- Continue to promote and preserve the heritage values of Forbes via suitable land use controls that are reflected in the Development Assessment process;
- Review and amend the Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) of the Forbes Town Centre and update the Heritage Register as needed;
- Prepare an adaptive re-use strategy to inform development opportunities of our heritage buildings into the future and reflect any outcomes of this report in the DCP;
- Work with land holders to preserve existing vegetation throughout the Shire
- Ensure the DCP addresses the requirements of the vegetation SEPP to protection remnant bushland
- Protect and enhance our environmental features such as Gum Swamp Wetland and the Lachlan River through special projects and appropriate management plans

Forbes has an abundance of Local Heritage items as well as several State Heritage Listed items.





Photo by Craig Dwyer

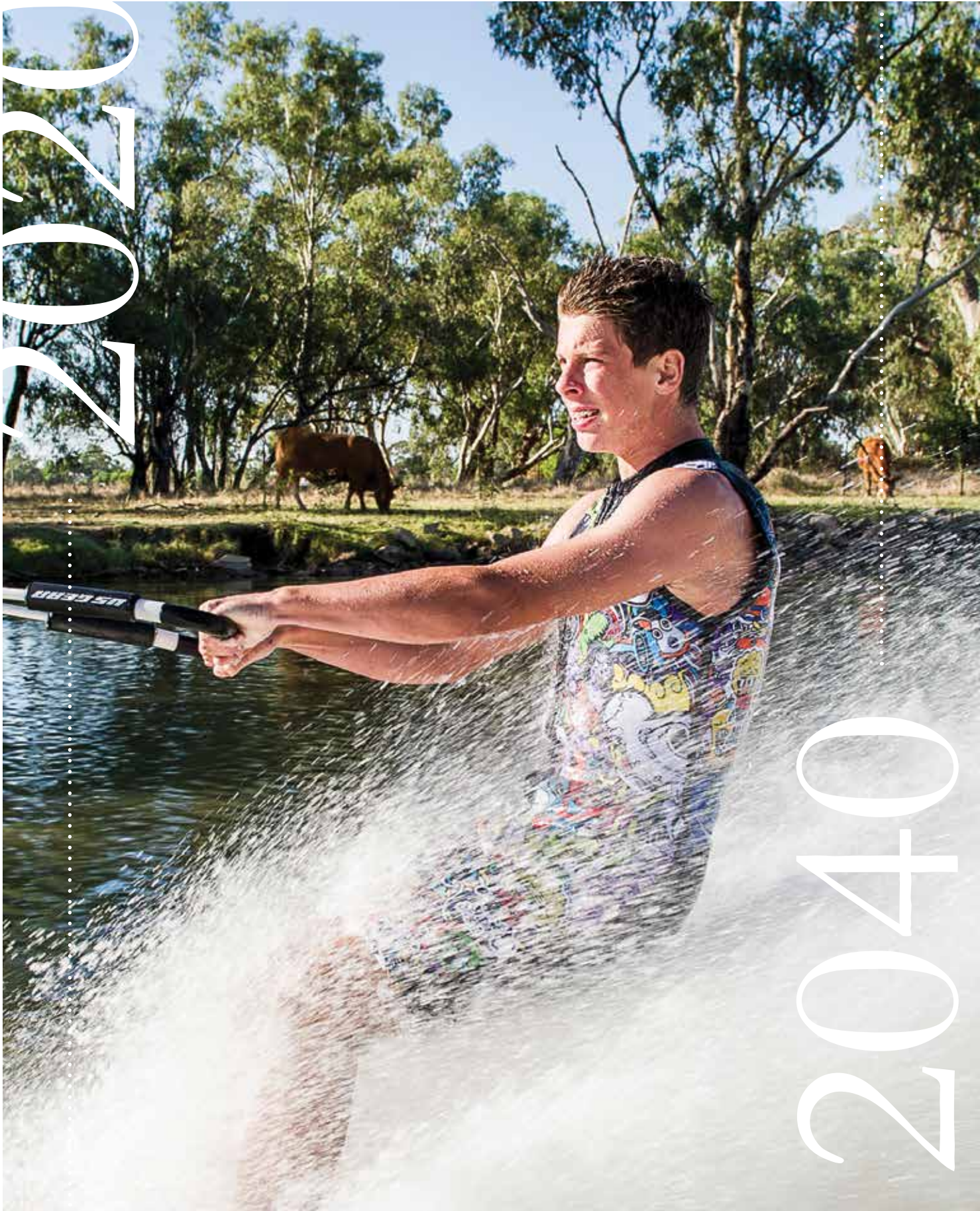
APPENDIX

List of Studies, Plans and Documents

The following documents were used in the creation of this plan:

Forbes Shire Council

- Community Strategic Plan 2018-2038
- Forbes Local Environmental Plan 2013
- Forbes Development Control Plan 2013
- Growth Management Strategy 2009
- Delivery Program 2017-2021
- Operational Plan 2019-2020
- Agricultural Strategy 2018
- Draft Drought Resilience Plan NSW Government
- Central West and Orana Regional Plan
- Agricultural Industry Action Plan
- Western Enabling Regional Adaptation Central West and Orana Report
- Draft Urban Design for Regional NSW Guidelines
- Local Character and Place Collection
- Planning for the future of retail
- Destination Management Plan 2018-2020
- Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025
- Newell Highway Corridor Strategy 2015
- Right to Farm Policy
- CSIRO Supply Chain Mapping
- NSW Future Transport Strategy 2056
- NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023
- A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW
- Planning for Healthy Waterways using NSW Water Quality Objectives



2020

2040

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANS

The table below shows the consistency of the planning priorities with the Central West and Orana Regional Plan and the Forbes Shire Community Strategic Plan.

CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA REGIONAL PLAN 2036

GOALS	PLANNING PRIORITY
GOAL 1: THE MOST DIVERSE REGIONAL ECONOMY IN NSW	
D1: Protect the regions diverse and productive agricultural land.	LE1, IG3, EH1
D2: Grow the agribusiness sector and supply chains.	LE1, LE2, IG1, IG2
D3: Develop advanced manufacturing and food processing sectors.	LE1, LE2
D4: Promote and diversify regional tourism markets.	LE3, LE4
D5: Improve access to health and aged care services.	LC3, LC2
D6: Expand education and training opportunities.	LC3
D7: Enhance the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities.	LC2
D8: Sustainably manage mineral resources.	LE2, IG3
D9: Increase renewable energy generation.	LE2
D10: Promote business and industrial activities in employment lands.	LE2
D11: Sustainably manage water resources for economic opportunities.	IG3
D12: Plan for greater land use compatibility.	LE1, LE2, IG3
GOAL 2: A STRONGER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT AND DIVERSE HERITAGE	
D13: Protect and manage environmental assets.	LE1, IG3, EH1, EH2
D14: Manage and conserve water resources for the environment.	IG3, EH1
D15: Increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change.	EH1
D16: Respect and protect Aboriginal heritage assets.	EH2
D17: Conserve and adaptively re-use heritage assets	LE3, EH2
GOAL 3: QUALITY FREIGHT, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS	
D18: Improve freight connections to markets and global gateways.	LE1, LE2, IG1, IG2
D19: Enhance road and rail freight links.	LE1, LE2, IG1, IG2
D20: Enhance access to air travel and public transport.	LE1, LE2, IG1, IG2
D21: Coordinate utility infrastructure investment.	IG1, IG3

GOALS	PLANNING PRIORITY
GOAL 4: DYNAMIC, VIBRANT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	
D22 : Manage growth and change in regional cities and strategic and local centres.	LE3
D23: Build the resilience of towns and villages.	LC2
D24: Collaborate and partner with Aboriginal communities.	LC2
D25: Increase housing diversity and choice.	LC1
D26: Increasing housing choice for seniors.	LC1, LC2
D27: Deliver a range of accommodation options for seasonal, itinerant and mining workforces.	LE1, LE2,
D28: Manage rural residential development.	LC1
D29: Deliver healthy built environments and better urban design.	LE3, LC1, LC2
FORBES PRIORITIES WITHIN CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA REGIONAL PLAN	
P1: Attract investment in value-adding manufacturing industries	LE1, LE2, IG2, IG3
P2: Enhance the agriculture sector with improved transport links and value-added production	IG1, IG2
P3: Encourage the development of employment-generating rural and agricultural industries	LE1
P4: Maintain and grow agricultural, livestock and meat processing industries	LE1, LE2
P5: Promote Forbes District Hospital as a regional medical training facility	LC3
P6: Protect important agricultural land from encroachment from residential development	LE1, LC1
P6: Attract tourism-related development, capitalising on Forbes's natural and built character	LE3, LE4, LC1, LC2, EH2

FORBES COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018 - 2038

GOALS	PLANNING PRIORITY
Direction 1: Community and Culture	LC1, LC2, LC3, LE3, LE4
Direction 2: Local Economy	L1, LE3, LE3, LE4, LG2
Direction 3: Natural Environment	LE1, LE2, LE4, IG1, IG3, EH1, EH2
Direction 4: Rural and Urban Land Use	All Priorities
Direction 5: Infrastructure and Services	LE1, LE2, IG1, IG2, IG3
Direction 6: Government and Representation	IE1, LE2, LE3, IG2, IG3, LC1, LC2, LC3, EH1

Planning Priorities	Key Actions	Timeframe
Our Neighbourhoods		
<i>Deliver healthy, diverse and liveable neighbourhoods</i>	Prepare a Housing Strategy that identifies future residential growth areas, plans land releases and proposes strategies to manage required infrastructure upgrades and environmental constraints such as flooding and groundwater vulnerability.	2020-2021
	Investigate any barriers to the supply of varied housing types and amend land use controls if necessary.	DCP review expected in 2020-2021
	Investigate land use controls that support infill development and implement as necessary.	2021-2023
	Rezone land as appropriate to support residential growth and future land releases.	As part of the LEP review expected in 2020-2021
Our community and lifestyle		
<i>Improve community facilities to support a diverse lifestyle</i>	Prepare a Sports and Recreation Strategy and establish function and use for the existing sporting and recreational open space and to capitalise on future opportunities	2021-2023
	Implement the Lake Forbes Activation Plan.	Ongoing as funding opportunities arise.
	Investigate and rezone land for high quality recreational spaces and move away from "pocket park" green infrastructure.	As part of the LEP review expected in 2020-2021
Our health and education		
Identify, maintain and improve health and education services to support the needs of the community	Collaborate with NSW Health and NSW TAFE to identify what health and education services are needed to support the growth of the community.	Ongoing
	Investigate existing public and private infrastructure that can provide accommodation for health and education professionals and implement a strategy to ensure this is provided.	Ongoing
	Investigate formalizing the Health Precinct within the DCP and LEP.	As part of the LEP and DCP review of 2020-2021
	Work with relevant stakeholders to deliver joint-venture opportunities for shared community and school facilities on school sites, including sporting fields, amenities, parking, community halls, child care, arts and library facilities.	Ongoing

Planning Priorities	Key Actions	Timeframe
Our Agriculture		
<i>Protect and support the growing diversification of the agricultural sector</i>	Research what diversification and value-adding opportunities looks like for Forbes and consult with stakeholders to determine how land use controls can support this. Implement changes as appropriate.	Ongoing
	Implement the actions identified within the Forbes Agricultural Strategy 2018-2030.	As per timelines in Forbes Agricultural Strategy 2018-2030
	Research best practice land use controls to prevent land use conflict, especially for important agricultural land. Implement LEP and DCP controls as appropriate to reflect best practice and ensure this is taken into account when determining Development Applications.	As part of the LEP review expected in 2020-2021
Our Industries		
<i>Support and grow our Industries</i>	Ensure an adequate supply of suitably zoned and serviced land for commercial and industrial redevelopment.	Investigation as part of commercial/industrial land use strategy in 2021
	Work with landholders and stakeholders to identify the best location for the future expansion of the Central West Industrial Park	As part of the Forbes LEP review 2021-2022
	Investigate how best to accommodate light industrial and small scale manufacturing uses and rezone land as appropriate.	Investigation as part of commercial/industrial land use strategy in 2021
	Identify locations for future large scale industries such as mines and solar farms outside of agricultural land and future residential growth areas.	Ongoing
	Prepare a study on infrastructure upgrades required to support expansion and use of the Central West Industrial Park.	Investigation as part of commercial/industrial land use strategy in 2021
Our Town Centre		
<i>Celebrate and protect active street frontages of the town centre while growing the retail and hospitality industries</i>	Support implementation of the CBD Masterplan and uses that maintain active street frontages.	Work expected to commence 2020 and be ongoing as funding arises.
	Work with stakeholders and industry experts to prepare a Digital Strategy which investigates the use of digital technology and implement programs to support patronage of the town centre.	As part of LEP review expected in 2020-2021
	Consult with stakeholders to determine barriers to retail and hospitality growth in the town centre. Implement strategies to overcome barriers and if appropriate review and update the Development Control Plan and Local Environmental Plan to support these uses.	Ongoing
	Investigate and implement Local Character Statements to preserve the character of the town centre	Ongoing
Our Tourism		
<i>Promote and diversify the tourism economy in Forbes</i>	Develop a Central Tourist Hub in the new location for the Forbes Visitor Information Centre as a key point for visitors which reflects the vibrant, unique and creative nature of Forbes.	Investigations to commence in 2021
	Work with State Government Agencies to enhance transport links from Sydney.	Ongoing
	Provide essential services for tourists to encourage them to stop and stay in the town, such as a strong town centre, accommodation, caravan services, food and beverage providers and public amenities.	Ongoing, work to commence as part of the CBD Masterplan work
	Ensure land use zonings and development controls encourage a range of attractions and experiences for tourists such as events, tours, functions, art installations, unique produce and other activities.	As part of LEP review expected in 2020-2021
	Investigate and implement the use of Digital Technologies to grow Tourism in Forbes.	Digital Strategy medium-long term goal

Planning Priorities	Key Actions	Timeframe
Our Infrastructure		
<i>Identify, plan and provide infrastructure in line with growth</i>	Prepare a report that identifies various growth scenarios to assist in infrastructure planning.	2020
	Work with government and private agencies to deliver upgraded telecommunication and NBN infrastructure upgrades.	Ongoing as opportunities arise
	Update the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (IWCM) addressing infrastructure options to service future growth areas within a low, medium and high growth scenarios whilst maintaining existing service levels to the current serviced areas.	2020-2021
	Investigate and determine the infrastructure needs for the local community in line with identified areas of growth. Prepare a Developer Servicing Plan and align Council's Capital Works Program with identified future infrastructure needs.	2021
	Prepare stormwater studies for Cypress Lane and South Forbes drainage corridors and amend the LEP and DCP as required to implement these studies.	As part of the Forbes DCP & LEP review 2020-2021
Our Transport		
<i>Improve and enhance transport connections to improve access to global markets</i>	Ensure land zonings will accommodate the investment and growth in the Shire expected from infrastructure upgrades	Investigation as part of commercial/industrial land use strategy in 2021
	Investigate future growth options for the Forbes Aerodrome and ensure land use controls support any predicted growth including possible residential uses.	As part of the Forbes LEP review 2020-2021
	Investigate how the agricultural and manufacturing sector can leverage inland rail to move freight to markets and ports and action any changes as appropriate.	Investigation as part of commercial/industrial land use strategy in 2021
	Upgrade transport routes in rural areas to ensure agricultural businesses can reach markets via the most direct route in line with the Agricultural Strategy.	Ongoing as funding opportunities arise
	Increase flood resilience of the Newell Highway.	Ongoing
Our Water Responsibilities		
<i>Ensure land use planning and water management are integrated</i>	Work with stakeholders and research best practice water management to investigate how land use controls can best ensure the efficient use of water in all land uses.	Ongoing
	Work with stakeholders to investigate appropriate land use controls for Irrigated Agriculture and large Water Storages and update the LEP and DCP as required.	As part of LEP and DCP review of 2020-2021
	Implement water infrastructure upgrades as required.	Ongoing as funding opportunities arise
	Investigate the use of buffer zones to protect the Lachlan River and mark these within the DCP if appropriate.	As part of DCP review of 2020-2021
	Update the DCP to include matters for consideration in the assessment of proposals on Groundwater Vulnerable land.	As part of DCP review of 2020-2021

Planning Priorities	Key Actions	Timeframe
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Our Resilience

<i>Plan for resilience in natural hazards and a changing climate</i>	Build drought resilience by supporting value-adding industries on agricultural land that is not dependent on water use	Ongoing
	Identify, plan and respond to issues surrounding climate change and natural disasters and their short and long term impact in line with the Central West Orana Regional Adaptation report	Investigation to commence in 2021-2022
	Update the Forbes Floodplain Risk Management Study	As part of DCP review of 2020-2021

Our Heritage and Biodiversity

<i>Protect and enhance our heritage and biodiversity</i>	Continue to promote and preserve the heritage values of Forbes via suitable land use controls that are reflected in the Development Assessment process.	Ongoing
	Review and amend the Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) of the Forbes Town Centre and update the Heritage Register as needed.	As part of the LEP review of 2020-2021
	Prepare an adaptive re-use strategy to inform development opportunities of our heritage buildings into the future and reflect any outcomes of this report in the DCP.	2021-2022
	Work with land holders to preserve existing vegetation throughout the Shire.	Ongoing, facilitated by DCP and LEP review of 2020-2021
	Protect and enhance our environmental features such as Gum Swamp Wetland and the Lachlan River through special projects and appropriate management plans	Ongoing

